

SULTRAVE,

BANBURY

18th January 1904.

To the Members of the Middleton Cheney Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my first annual report upon the Sanitary condition, Public Health, and other matters of the Middleton Cheney Rural District for the year ending 31st December 1903.

Owing to the delay caused by the Local Government Board in sanctioning my appointment I would remind the Members of the above Council that I did not commence my duties until 1st April last year. Consequently I am not in a position to speak of the Public Health of the District for the first three months of the past year with any accuracy, as the books forwarded to me by the Clerk of the Middleton Cheney Rural District Council do not contain any information or entries of any kind on this subject. I have therefore assumed that for the first three months of the past year there were no cases of disease under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act reported to the deputy Medical Officer of Health.

I have however obtained from the Registrars a report of the Births and Deaths occurring in the District for the first three months and with these in my possession have been able to estimate the birth rate and death rate for the whole of the past year.

Immediately after my appointment was sanctioned by the Local Government Board, I made a visit of inspection over the District and upon observations made on this and other occasions I append the following particulars :- The District is a purely Agricultural one, consisting of nine parishes with an evidently decreasing population, judging from the number of un-occupied houses in almost every parish. The house accomodation for the working classes might be considerably improved. The majority are of very antiquated structure with thatched roofs and although there is a sufficiency of open space around them, many are in



TELEGRAMS,
THORPE MANDEVILLE.

nnant

SULGRAVE,
BANBURY.

March. 8th/04

Dear Sir - I have much pleasure
in forwarding to you a copy of
my annual report as to the
Middleton Cherry.
Yours obediently.

I shall also be pleased to
forward you in the future
my annual copy. but should
be glad of a reminder
on the matter from time to time.
- J. J. Hudson -



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such state of repair that further delapidations will render them unfit for human habitation.

Three dwelling houses in the district have been declared unfit for human habitation. The defects in two cases however have been remedied and the houses are now occupied.

There has only been one case of overcrowding in the District during the past year.

No new houses have been erected.

There is no regular sewage system in the District, neither is there any definite system for its eventual removal. The main sewers however have worked satisfactorily. In the villages of Middleton Cheney and Upper Boddington it was found necessary to repair the main sewers, which was done with good results.

This being an agricultural district, house refuse &c is generally disposed of by the various occupiers either in gardens or on the land. In most villages the disposal of excrement is in a very primitive state. Many privy vaults and few covered in ash-pits exist, pail closets are almost entirely absent and the frequency and methods of removal of excrement generally are not performed in any systematic manner.

With one exception the water supply throughout the whole district is good. The main supply arises from springs and wells. There is also a public supply laid on at Lower Boddington. Concerning the supply at the above village, during the past year the main became blocked through roots and it was found necessary to take up the pipes and relay with cast iron ones.

The exception referred to above applies to Spella House Farm, Upper Boddington. Here there is a good supply of water but the existing pipes are worn out, consequently the water leaks away before reaching the house. The tenant has therefore to obtain all drinking water from the village, more than a mile away. The Inspector of Nuisances has made repeated application to both the owner and agent to have this rectified, and although receiving numerous promises from them, nothing at present has been done in the matter. The repairs carried out to the pump and well at Overthorpe at the commencement of last year have proved successful and there has not been further complaint since their completion.

Public Slaughter houses and Public Bake houses have been inspected.

A few minor defects found therein were promptly remedied and generally speaking they are in a very satisfactory condition.

There are no factories or offensive trades carried on in the District, and Dairies and-Cowsheds and places from which milk is sold are on the whole well kept.

Fifty two cases of nuisances were dealt with by the Inspector during the past year, which number was made up as follows:-

Defective and untrapped drains	15
Defective water supply	11
Foul privies and accumulations of ashes and manure	13
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	5
Nuisances relating to bake houses and slaughter houses	5
Dwellings unfit for human habitation	3
One case of overcrowding	1

With the exception of three all have been remedied. These three all apply to water supply. Two will be abated within a short period. The one in obeyance relates to the water supply at Spella House Farm, Upper Boddington.

During the past year it has not been necessary to take proceedings for the abatement of any nuisance.

In the Middleton Cheney Rural District there^{are} no methods of dealing with infectious diseases. There is no isolation hospital neither is there any provision made for the disinfection of infected clothing.

Since 1st April last there have been four cases of Scarlet Fever reported to me in the district. Three cases at Chipping Warden in April and one case at Middleton Cheney in August. No other cases under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act have been reported. There was an outbreak of Measles at Chalcombe in April, when it was found necessary to close the school for three weeks.

Fifty two births have been registered in the district. Twenty four Males and twenty eight females. Thirty births were registered at Middleton Cheney, ten at Chalcombe, seven at Chipping Warden, two at Upper Boddington, two at Lower Boddington and one at Aston le Walls.

This is a decrease of thirteen on the previous year, and gives a birth rate of 21.54 per 1000.

Thirty four deaths have been reported during the past year. Seventeen

occurred at Middleton Cheney, four at Chipping Warden and Upper Boddington, three at Chalcombe, two at Appletree and Edgcote, and one at Aston le Walls and Lower Boddington respectively. This is a decrease of three on the previous year and gives a death rate for all ages of 14.08 per 1000, and for children under one year a rate per 1000 births registered of 57.6.

Three deaths occurred under one year, three deaths between one and five years, one death between five and fifteen years, two deaths between fifteen and twenty five years, ten deaths between twenty five and sixty five years, and fifteen deaths at sixty five years and upwards.

Six deaths were due to Heart disease, four to Pneumonia, three Bronchitis, two to Cancer and Alcoholism respectively, and one each to the following causes viz Whooping Cough, Influenza, Diarrhoea, Laryngitis and by Accident. There were also twelve deaths from old age and other causes.

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the past year, thus comparing most favourably with the preceeding one, during which there were sixty nine notifications of Scarlet Fever alone. Neither the mortality or the death rate present any exceptional characteristics and generally speaking the district has maintained a healthy condition.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health
Middleton Cheney Rural District Council.

